

STATINTL

Dodd Protests Police Treatment of Cubans

Washington police " tarnished their reputation for tact and restraint" in curbing a demonstration by anti-Castro Cubans on Tuesday, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) said yesterday.

"I believe that all of us were sickened and dismayed by the photographs . . . which showed Cuban refugees, who had come to Washington to demonstrate for the freedom of their country, being pushed around and chased by our mounted police," Dodd said in a Senate speech.

The melee erupted when some Cubans tried to break through Park Police lines to approach the Pan American Union Building, 17th st. and Constitution ave. nw., while a meeting of the Organization of American States was in progress.

Some demonstrators were hurt but apparently none was injured by police.

Dodd said the outbreak occurred because police rigidly enforced the law barring demonstrations within 500 feet of a diplomatic building.

"I think the police should have been guided by flexibility rather than rigidity," said Dodd. "It is a sorry situation

that when people come to Washington to demonstrate for the freedom of Cuba, they are pushed around in this manner."

Dodd said he is asking for reports from the police, Cuban refugee leaders and the State Department. He may request a formal investigation later, the Senator said.